



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Wilmer A. Benegas

HONDURAN CITIZEN INDICTED FOR ASSAULTING A FEDERAL OFFICER

Wilmer A. Benegas, a Honduran citizen, was indicted today by a federal grand jury in Detroit on charges of Assaulting and Inflicting Bodily Injury Upon a Federal Officer, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

The indictment filed in federal district court stated that on December 4, 2005 Border Patrol Agents approached a vehicle stuck in a parking lot in Detroit. The complaint alleged that Mr. Benegas, a citizen of Honduras who was in the country illegally, fled the scene and a Border Patrol agent attempted to apprehend him. When the agent attempted to handcuff Mr. Benegas, Benegas bit the Agent on the right middle finger and would not release. The Agent was treated at Detroit Receiving Hospital for a deep bite wound to his finger.

The indictment alleges that defendant Benegas forcibly assaulted and inflicted bodily injury upon a Senior Border Patrol Agent while the Agent was performing his official duties. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Schneider.

A conviction would carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. Any sentence will ultimately be imposed under the United States Sentence

Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. It will be the government's burden to prove the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.